AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A sealing element which is interposed between the opening face of a fitted element and fitting element and elastically deformable so as to seal ~~prevent leakage from the~~ an interior and entrance from ~~the~~ an exterior, comprising:

an endless portion;

a flexible protruding part projected approximately obliquely outwards from the periphery of the endless portion; and

a coupling feature having ~~a fitting means having a notch or projection~~ protruding part formed on at least one of the obverse and reverse sides of the endless portion, and ~~wherein a rounded projection is formed at a distal end of the protruding part~~

the protruding part directed obliquely and outwards with respect to an open front of the fitted element, forming a substantially acute angle between the protruding part or its extension and the contact surface of the open front of the fitted element, the protruding part becoming flexed outwards with respect to the open front of the fitted element when the fitting element is closed, thus making the fitting element to seal the open front of the fitted element by contact with a curved portion of the protruding part.

2. (Original) The sealing element according to claim 1, wherein a rounded projection is formed at the distal end of the protruding part.

3. (Currently Amended) The sealing element according to claim 1, wherein the ~~fitting means~~ coupling feature comprises a plurality of fitting ribs, and among the plurality of fitting ribs, the fitting rib located closest to the entrance side of a fit-holding portion formed on the opening face of

the fitted element or on the fitting element side are higher than those located on the interior side of the fit-holding portion.

4. (Currently Amended) The sealing element according to claim 12, wherein the ~~fitting means~~ coupling feature comprises a plurality of fitting ribs, and among the plurality of fitting ribs, the fitting rib located closest to the entrance side of a fit-holding portion formed on the opening face of the fitted element or on the fitting element side are higher than those located on the interior side of the fit-holding portion.

5. (Original) The sealing element according to claim 1, wherein the protruding part is set curved inwardly in the direction of squeezing so that the curved portion of the protruding part comes into contact with the contact surface of the fitted element or the contact surface of the fitting element.

6. (Previously Amended) The sealing element according to claim 12, wherein the protruding part is set curved inwardly in the direction of squeezing so that the curved portion of the protruding part comes into contact with the contact surface of the fitted element or the contact surface of the fitting element.

7. (Original) The sealing element according to claim 3, wherein the protruding part is set curved inwardly in the direction of squeezing so that the curved portion of the protruding part comes into contact with the contact surface of the fitted element or the contact surface of the fitting element.

8. (Original) The sealing element according to claim 4, wherein the protruding part is set curved inwardly in the direction of squeezing so that the curved portion of the protruding part comes into contact with the

contact surface of the fitted element or the contact surface of the fitting element.

9. (Currently Amended) A hermetic container comprising:

a container body having an opening face and a number of positioning grooves located on an underside of the container body for mating with a support plate;

a door element to be detachably fitted to the opening face of the container body, wherein the container body is of a front-open box type container body; and

an elastically deformably sealing element interposed between the opening face and the door element,

characterized in that a fit-holding portion is formed by notching either the inner periphery of the opening face of the container body or the outer periphery of the door element, and the sealing element comprises: an endless portion to be fitted into the fit-holding portion; a flexible protruding part projected from the endless portion, obliquely and outwardly with respect to the opening face of the container body, forming a substantially acute angle between itself and the contact surface of the door element or the contact surface of the opening face of the container body; and a ~~fitting means~~ coupling feature having a ~~notch or~~ projection formed on at least one of the obverse and reverse sides of the endless portion and fitted in contact with ~~the~~ a compartmentalized inner wall of the fit-holding portion, wherein the protruding part is formed in a tapered configuration which becomes gradually narrower from the proximal part toward the distal end.

10. (Original) The hermetic container according to claim 9, wherein the sealing element is formed using a fluororubber composition.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The sealing element according to claim 1, wherein a vertical wall or projection having a vertical wall for positioning is formed on ~~the inner side wall of the sealing~~ an opposite wall of the protruding element.